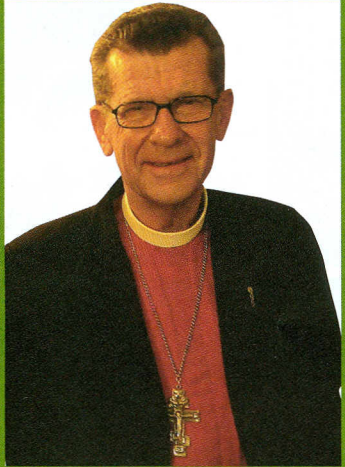


Letter from Bunbury

By Bishop David McCall



BUT when God was pleased to reveal his Son in me. (Galatians 1.16)

The text the Archbishop of Canterbury took for his first retreat address at the

beginning of the Lambeth Conference was both challenging and encouraging.

The first challenge was the word **in**. Most translations of the New Testament read that *God was pleased to reveal his Son to me*, however, as the Archbishop pointed out, the original Greek text reads **in**.

Paul was reflecting on his own amazing encounter with the risen Christ. He went on to indicate the purpose of this revelation which was to proclaim Christ among the nations.

Paul had a unique and special vocation, however **all** Christians are called to show Christ to their fellow human beings by the kind of people they are. You and I, by virtue of our baptism, have the responsibility to be Christ-like people so that others see in us the light of Christ.

That would be an impossible challenge if it depended on us. However what is required of us is not some super effort of the will, what is required is our willingness to allow Christ to transform us. This does require a clear decision on our part, however the work of transformation belongs to our Lord.

In preparation for the Lambeth Conference the bishops were given a commentary on John's Gospel by Richard Burridge. It was rearranged with short passages with a commentary to be read over a three month period. At the end of each commentary was a prayer. Early on I came across a new version of the "Jesus" prayer:

*Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me,
take away my sin and fill me with your Holy Spirit*

This prayer expresses beautifully a truly Biblical approach to our relationship with the risen Saviour. As we turn to Christ so we are changed. Turning to Christ requires a decision, it also involves turning **from** what is sinful and self-centred. The idea of repentance includes both. As our Lord changes us into his likeness so he is revealed in us.

My prayer for you as you read this letter is that you will discover with joy that Christ lives in you.